

## AN OBITUARY

The following interesting obituary reportedly appeared in the *London Times*: Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who had been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition. He lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. He grew worse when schools were required to get parental consent to administer suntan lotion or an aspirin to a student, but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses and criminals received better treatment than their victims. He took a beating when he learned he couldn't defend himself from a burglar in his own home and the burglar could sue him for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilled a little in her lap, and was awarded a huge settlement from the coffee-seller.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason. He is survived by his four stepbrothers: I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Don't Blame me, and I'm A Victim. Not many attended the memorial service for Common Sense because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

—Author unknown